

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/744,008

Examiner

Satya B. Sastri

Applicant(s)

TOMOTO ET AL.

Art Unit

1713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to March 16, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S COMMENT/REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. All previous rejections have been overcome by the amendment filed on March 16, 2006 and the rejections are withdrawn. *Claims 1-11* are now pending in the application.

Reasons For Allowance

2. *Claims 1-11* are allowed.

3. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

The instant claims are allowable over prior art to Hiroko et al. (JP 11130876, Machine Translation).

The present claims are directed to a sliding element comprising a carbon matrix formed by firing a matrix comprising 25 to 75 wt.% carbon aggregate and 20-50% by wt. of thermosetting synthetic resin binder, wherein the sliding element further includes isolated scattered spherical pores having a diameter in a range of from 1 to 100 μm and concaves formed on a carbon sliding face.

Hiroko et al. disclose a sliding member comprising a resin composite having excellent abrasion resistance and comprising 30-70 volume % of fibrous filler made of carbon fiber or organic fiber and 70-30 volume % of thermosetting resin and uniformly arranged pores on the sliding face. Pore area ratio is interpreted as being in the range of 3-30% and the pore pitch diameter on the sliding surface is in the range of 15-80 micrometers.

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Demendi et al. disclose composition for use in tribological applications such as in mechanical seals, bearings and other sliding or rubbing components. The composition comprises one compound selected from the group consisting of amorphous carbon, graphitic carbon, petroleum coke etc. in the range of 40-75% by wt., 25-50 wt.% of at least one binder. The raw material is mixed and molded in a furnace and may be further heat-treated by baking to carbonize the binder in an inert atmosphere.

Neither art of record teach or suggest sliding elements comprising isolated, scattered spherical pores in the carbon matrix with concaves formed on a carbon sliding surface as claimed instantly. Therefore, the instantly claimed invention is deemed allowable over closest prior art of record as per said art neither anticipating nor rendering, alone or in combination, the instantly claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Future Correspondence

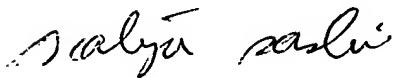
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satya Sastri whose telephone number is 571-272-1112.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on 571-272-1114. The fax phone numbers for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273 8300 for regular communications. The unofficial direct fax phone number to the Examiner's desk is 571-273-1112.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



SATYA SASTRI

May 1, 2006



DAVID W. WU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1700